

# International Network for Immigration Research (INIR)

## Joint Statement

For far too long, the dominant political and academic discourse on immigration has been promoting unsustainable policies, centered around the benefits of human mobility while disregarding the long-term consequences for both the countries of origin and receiving countries, and in some cases, detrimental effects on the migrants themselves.

Academic and research organizations that promote this discourse maintain close cooperation, enhancing their ability to effectively influence decision makers, and the public. This one-sided viewpoint shapes political debate and the agendas of governments and international institutions; in addition, it jeopardizes academic integrity and limits the possibility of developing a more complex and nuanced understanding of immigration.

In order to counter this, a number of independent research centers and think tanks have come together to establish the **International Network for Immigration Research**, with the common belief that immigration policy should be assessed with a multifaceted approach that takes into account both the benefits, as well as the challenges.

Accordingly, the members of the network believe that this issue should be examined not only from the perspective of the rights of migrants, but also from the perspective of the host countries and societies. Instead of merely making normative declarations, it is crucial to address the political, social, economic, and security considerations as well, to form realistic, long-lasting, and responsible policy on this crucial issue.

While the members of the Network are based in different countries with varying immigration policies, we share the fundamental position that while acknowledging humanitarian needs and commitments, every nation has the right to pursue and enforce its chosen immigration policies.

Members of the Network will:

1. Share their research on various immigration topics and policies;
2. Share best practices for handling certain situations and phenomena;
3. Increase awareness that they represent a widespread and important viewpoint;
4. Provide any other help and assistance for the better understanding of the real nature of immigration and its consequences – in countries of origin, in transit countries, and in countries of destination.

To reach these goals, the participants:

1. Establish the International Network for Immigration Research (INIR), allowing them to share knowledge and experience and which can serve as a knowledge-hub;
2. Organize joint workshops and conferences;
3. Publish a semi-annual English language, peer-reviewed journal on immigration studies, including academic and policy-oriented papers, with an international advisory board;
4. Conduct joint research on different transnational immigration topics.

The network is based on good will and cooperation between these independent organizations and does not function as an umbrella organization. Any position, policy or statement held or promoted by members of the network does not represent the other members or the network itself, and vice versa. Future members of the Network will be added by unanimous agreement of the founding members.

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